

Serving Today Preparing for Tomorrow



Odessa
Christian
School, Inc.

P. O. BOX 1651
ODESSA, TEXAS 79760

ODESSA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Service to God

The very name of our school reveals the uniqueness of our philosophy of education. We believe education must train the heart and soul of students. This should be readily agreed by all who believe the Bible teaching that the soul of each person is worth more than all the world.

A generation which knows how to fly a jet plane and drop a hydrogen bomb is all the more dangerous if it has no fear of God or respect for its fellow man. Jesus asks, "What shall a man be profited if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul?" There is something basically wrong with the kind of education that gives an intensive study to Julius Caesar but not study to Jesus Christ.

You can separate church and state, but you can't separate education and religion. As learning develops the mind through a consideration of facts and ideas, attitudes are necessarily cultivated. If the instruction is not centered around the Bible as the moral standard, many dangerous attitudes may be assumed. It is impossible for a secular school to teach morals without teaching the Bible.

We take our stand on the Word of God. No catechism or ceremony is involved. The Bible is practical and relevant.

We believe all truth belongs to God whether it is scientific, historical, philosophical or spiritual, and it should be taught in that light. This we seek to do at Odessa Christian School.

Service to Country

Patriotism and loyalty to country are closely akin to devotion to God. This is true because God commands His people to honor the rulers and laws of a nation.

This seems to be a period in our history when such traits as patriotism, loyalty, and pride in being an American, a concept of absolute moral values, and a belief in the role of limited government are traits to be suppressed or ridiculed. The private school has the responsibility to nurture these traits so that American citizens will be wise in their understanding of their heritage and zealous in maintaining the American way of life.

The Bible teaches that Christians are to be obedient and loyal citizens of their country. In fact, Christians should be the best citizens in the country. But in order to be the best citizens boys and girls must have definite and positive teaching that is very closely correlated with the Bible.

It is our desire to cultivate in our students an awareness of the greatness of their heritage. We want them to be proud of the fact that they are citizens of the greatest nation on earth. We believe reverence for God and honor for country go hand in hand.

Something on the Academics

Our scholastic program is designed to meet the requirements of the Texas Education Agency. We are very pleased with the quality of our instructional program.

The Open Court Correlated Language Arts Program, which we use, has three main purposes: (1) to teach children to read and write independently by the end of first grade, (2) to provide selections of literary quality and rewarding content, and (3) to provide a correlated language arts program from grades one through six.

The program is designed for the average class, taking into consideration individual differences as point of view, background information, and mastery of skills. Reading and writing, the two essentials of literacy are developed so they can provide mutual support. The lessons are arranged so the program will be stimulating for the bright student, but not too difficult to help the slower pupils develop more complex reading and writing skills.

The development of reading skills is based on a strong phonics program. From the beginning we seek to give the students tools with which to attack new words. Because of this our readers contain on each level more difficult words than found in other readers. Since the student has the tools with which to attack new words there is not the necessity of overmuch repetition.

In mathematics we have tried not to forsake the basic principals so long a part of our classrooms. We stress repetitious coverage of addition, subtractions, and multiplication. We do use “new math” texts, and strive to keep our students abreast of worthy advancements.

In addition to regular subjects, we teach some French, music, and Bible. We invited you to examine any or all of our textbooks.

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A decided advantage of each to each student is the smaller number in each classroom. These restrictions are enforced for the benefit of the child.

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Please feel free to inquire about any phase of our program. We will appreciate it.

Joe Cross
Principal

A FEW OF OUR BRIEFS

Because Odessa Christian School believes in God Centered Education it:

1. aims to provide a godly environment.
2. builds upon Biblical foundations.
3. respects the teachings of god-fearing parents.
4. prays to God for wisdom and understanding.
5. cautions against errors of secular books and philosophies.
6. censors library books and reading materials that promote ungodly practices.
7. presents the Bible as man's guide for moral conduct and salvation.
8. inspires its students in Bible-centered devotional periods.
9. teaches bible facts and doctrine in regular Bible classes.
10. relates God's directives to each subject.
11. shows God's hand in the actions of men and events in history
12. disciplines ungodly conduct and practices.
13. uses Scripture to teach God's attitude toward wrongdoing.
14. teaches man's need for God for salvation and victory over temptation.
15. aims to love the soul above all other interests.

ANSWERS to QUESTIONS about Christian Schools

Much good can be said about Christian schools, but legitimate questions are raised which require thoughtful answers.

By replacing public schools with Christian schools are we breaking down on American institutions?

No, we are restoring an American institution. For over two hundred years the American way of education youth was by means of schools in which education and religion were united. The secular school that divorces education and religion was an innovation of the last century.

In the United States we enjoy freedom of religion. This implies that we may establish our own Christian institutions (churches and schools). Those who take advantage of these American liberties and build their own churches and schools are practicing the American way of life.

Why not let the public school teacher secular subjects and the home and church provide Christian training?

This dualism in education is responsible in a large way for the moral and spiritual bankruptcy in which we now find ourselves. While the training of the Christian home and church seeks to Christianize the children, the instruction in the secular school is daily engaged in secularizing them. The Christian and the secular education programs do not supplement each other – they pull in the opposite direction. C. C. Morrison, former editor of *Christian Century* (an influential liberal paper), wrote: “Public education without religion creates a secular mentality faster than the church can Christianize it.”

To be sure, the home and the church must give religious instruction. But by so doing these institutions do not make good influence of the non-religious instruction of the secular school. In these critical days we must not have an educational house which is divided against itself. Such a program is sure to fail us in the coming hour of need.

Graduates must be taught to live in a secular world. When Christian school graduates enter the world are they not maladjusted?

What is true of school training in this regard is true of home training. Substituting the home for the school, the question reads as follows: Children must some day leave the Christian home. When entering the secular world will they not be maladjusted if they have had Christian training in the home? On this basis all Christian education stands condemned and the way to meet the world is by not preparing for it. Are we ready to accept this conclusion?

The truth is that children are properly adjusted to the modern world only when their instruction in home, church and school prepared them to meet the world in a Christian way. The worldly school does not help the child to *adjust* to the world – it helps him to *conform* to the world. The individual who received religious training in the home and church and non-religious training in the day school is one who is maladjusted in his preparation for life.

Should we not leave our children in the public schools to exert an influence and maintain a Christian witness?

As a matter of actual daily experience the influence is in an opposite direction. The child in school is at the *receiving* end. It is the teacher and the textbooks that are at the *giving* end. And what is given in school a child has a way of accepting without question.

Of all mission fields the public school (which by Supreme Court decision has banished religion) is the most barren. And of all missionaries the child is the most unqualified.

Before a soldier goes to the front, he must pass through a period of strenuous military training. To send a Christian child to a worldly school is to rush a volunteer of the army of the Lord to the scene of battle untutored and untrained. Worse, it is placing a raw recruit in the enemy's training camp, where he is equipped to *fight* his own religious faith instead of to *defend* it.

To be able to exert a Christian influence upon a worldly institution our children must first be influenced by a Christian institution. The Christian school graduate has been trained to exert a Christian influence upon all public institutions. The best way to improve the public schools is to send children to Christian schools.

How can we afford to send our children to a Christian school?

We Christian parents believe that our children first belong to us. We must feed our children physically. It is no less our duty to feed them intellectually and spiritually. If we would enjoy the blessings of parenthood we must assume its responsibility. As parents the educating of our children is one of our greatest responsibilities and one of our greatest sources of true happiness.

According to government statistics, the average American family spends more than 30 cents of every dollar income for luxury and waste. To educate children privately takes about 5 cents of every dollar income of those who comprise the average Christian community. From these facts it is apparent that no Christian community need deprive itself of the necessities of life if it established and maintained its own school.

Since parents *should appreciate* the education of their own offspring and since Christians of average income *can finance* the education of their children, they should not turn to the state for financial support. With the use of state aid we shift responsibility and eventually control from the home to the state. What we need is not state aid but personal readiness to assume our God-given duty to educate our own children in the light of God's Word.

Are Christian school standards up to public school standards?

This is a problem – but not for the Christian school. On the elementary level it surely is not a problem and it should not be a problem on the secondary level.

It is common practice in a number of public schools to *promote* students who transfer from Christian schools. In these communities it is common for Christian schools to *demote* pupils who transfer from public schools.

Not only public schools principals, but also unbelieving parents of public school children, realize that the best work is done in the Christian school. Accordingly, many non-Christian parents are today transferring their children from public schools to Christian schools for the simple reason that the instruction given in these Christian schools is of a higher scholastic level.

The home is the unit of society. To this unit God has given the responsibility to bring up what it has brought forth. This is God's way – and God's way is the best way.

“For the Lord giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.” Proverbs 2:6

“Cease, my son, to hear the instruction that causeth to err from the words of knowledge.” Proverbs 19:27.

Note from Internet Publisher: Donald L. Potter

October 8, 2015

It has been my privilege to teach at the Odessa Christian School for the last ten years. When I came to the school in 2006, the school had just celebrated its 40th Anniversary. Unfortunately I was unable to attend the celebration. I did notice that a big box of documents concerning the history of the school was in the Teacher's Lounge. I made copies of materials that I thought should be safeguarded for future reference in case the originals were ever lost. This document is one of those treasures that I was able to preserve. By the way, the originals were mysteriously lost.

Now that the school is approaching its 50th Anniversary, I thought it would be a good time to publish this pamphlet. It clearly explains the nature and purposes of the school as conceived by the original founders.

The pamphlet was probably published the second year the school was in session. It mentions the Open Court reading program, which was introduced second year of the school's existence. The first year they taught the Phonovisual Method, which, interestingly, is one of my main tutoring tools. Mrs. Barbara Davidson explained to me that Mr. Cross discovered the Open Court program, which included both excellent phonics and excellent readers. The Phonovisual method did not have readers. The school was justly famous for producing excellent readers, thanks to this excellent program. In the early 1990's Open Court was purchased by SRA/McGraw-Hill, who seriously downgraded the reading program. Unlike the new program, which teaches the short vowels first, the old Open Court taught the long vowels first. The school for a few years decided to teach *Johnny Can Spell*, a popular program based on Romalda Spalding's *Writing Road to Reading*. The second year Mrs. Twyla Greenfield was principal, the school switched to the excellent A Beka Book intensive phonics program, which like the old Open Court couples strong phonics with excellent literature.

It is refreshing to read this founding document and reflect on the five decades of steadfast commitment to its lofty goals. May it serve to all involved with the future of the school to maintain the academic excellent in the atmosphere of unwavering Christian faith.

I am very proud to be a part of this great school and look forward to many more years of fruitful service here. [I resigned from teaching at OCS at the end of the 2018-2019 school year to expand my private tutoring business featuring manuscript, cursive handwriting, and intensive phonics.]

I might mention that I was the Coach back in 1975. My four children and three of my grandchildren attended the school.

You can learn more about the A Beka reading program from my website, www.donpotter.net. I have also published a very detailed Analysis of the original Open Court program. I know the old Open Court very well since I taught it to my son when he was in first-grade at OCS.

The Odessa School Development Fund Campaign

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ODESSA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT FUND DINNER GUESTS

MARCH 28, 1968

THE HEAD TABLE:

Dr. C. L. Kay, Speaker from Lubbock Christian College; Mr. & Mrs. Ken Griffith; Mr. & Mrs. J. E. Perkins; Dr. & Mrs. J. D. Cone; Mr. & Mrs. Berry Mansell; Mr. & Mrs. Al Squire; Mr. & Mrs. Frank Harrell; Mr. & Mrs. Wallace Cunningham; Mr. & Mrs. Don Hatch; Mr. & Mrs. Bob Watts; Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd Mitchell; Mr. & Mrs. Kimbell Cook; Mr. & Mrs. Doyle Green; Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Roberts.

THE FACULTY TABLE:

Mr. & Mrs. A. V. Cates; Mr. & Mrs. T. T. Davidson; Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Duzan; Mr. & Mrs. D. L. Heath; Mr. & Mrs. Glen Morrow; Miss Diane Perkins.

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This page was typed by Mr. Donald L. Potter on October 10, 2015 in sincere appreciation for the united faith and vision of these brethren to provide a high-quality Christian education for the children of Odessa, TX. Revised 2/22/21.

Labor of Love



John O. (Joe) Cross was born and raised in Malone, Texas. He graduated from Malone High School as Salutatorian. He served in the Air Corps during World War II. At age 18, he received the Purple Heart when his plane was shot down and crashed landed on the Island of Morotai. While training at the Midland, Texas Bombardier School, he met his and married Dorothy Bewley of Odessa. After being discharged from the Air Force, he graduated from North Texas college

His first teaching job was 6th grade at Alamo Elementary in 1949. He received his Master's Degree from Sul Ross in Alpine, Texas. He later went to Abilene Christian College. He resigned his work with the public school system to devote full time to teaching and preaching the Lord's word. He was a Bible Chair instructor at Odessa College. In May of 1958 Joe, Dorothy, and their children, Scotty and Melody, left to go to Nigeria, Africa as missionaries. This was the first of four tours from 1958 to 1975. Joe preached and taught Bible classes at the Nigerian Christian School Foundation. Joe worked with Lubbock Christian School, the church in Meadow, TX., Orlando, FL., and almost every congregation in Odessa, TX.

Joe's special love was Odessa Christian School. He served as principal from 1967 to 1972. He also served as principal from 1996 to 2004. On the 40th anniversary of Odessa Christian school, Joe wrote the following thoughts.

Odessa Christian came into existence because a group of men and women who knew the value of such a school. They wanted our young people to have an opportunity to attend a school that teaches that living in fellowship with God is the best life anyone can live. God bless them for their vision and determination to provide children with this unique blessing. I still contend that God's favorite spot in Odessa on Monday through Friday is Odessa Christian School! He surely looked down with a smile as His little children were learning about him and His marvelous Word. I have been blessed that I was allowed to have as part in this work. It was truly a joyful and satisfying experience.

Odessa Christian was so blessed to have a man who was servant of God and His fellowman. Joe touched so many hearts of young and old. He truly believed and practice that serving the Lord is a LABOR of LOVE!

The above text was taken from the Odessa Christian School Annual for 2007-2008, which was my second-year teaching at OCS. My daughter, Cheryl Whitley, had the privilege of teaching at OCS while Brother Cross was still principal there. All my four children studied at OCS and benefited from the superior academic curriculum and the reverent Christian instruction for which the school was well known. I was privileged to teach there for 13 years before leaving to start a private tutoring practice.

Brother Joe Cross was born on April, 6, 1924 in Malone, TX and passed away on March 21, 2008. He was a 1st LT. in the U. S. Army Air Force during WWII serving as a Bombardier in the Pacific Theater, and he received the Purple Heart. He loved playing golf. He was principal at Zavala Elementary School in Odessa in his early teaching career.

Thirty-Six Years



Mom called me in September, 1970, to tell me that she had changed jobs. Joe Cross had asked her to work in the office at Odessa Christian School, and she was more than happy to accept the job.

During her years at OCS, Mom took on various tasks and love each one. When the school decided to start serving hot meals in the 70's, Joe told mom that it would be fine if she would plan the meals and be in charge of cooking. She and others prepared hot meals in the old "kitchen" in the gym. These meals were enjoyed by students and staff. Her love of cooking was also shown by the special food she would prepare for the staff and friends. She would make chili rellenos, and everyone would bring a dish to go along with them. One major project Mom would take on during several Settlers' Days was to make a full Thanksgiving meal. Many of her friends and co-workers have commented to me how much they loved her cinnamon rolls. One of her favorite things to do was to teach the sixth-grade girls (and sixth graders loved doing this and then taking their rolls home for their families. For several years Mom prepare her version of fruit pizza for the sixth-grade banquet. She loved seeing their faces light up when they would see these huge fruit pizzas.

Mom loved nature. She became known as the "turtle lady." The atrium was the home of several turtles (twenty-two at one point), and she would bring them scrambled eggs and fruit. On Saturdays she would feed the turtles and then start watering the atrium and front flower bed. It was something she enjoyed dong.

Another job she enjoyed was taking pictures for the yearbook. Mom would take pictures during chapel performances, kindergarten graduation, sixth grade, banquet, track, basketball, and soccer games, awards programs, class parties, and anything else that was needed. There were several years that she helped prepare the yearbook.

Her primary job, however, was to take care of the payroll, pay bills, and take care of various other responsibilities that come with record keeping require by government.

I know that she loved going to work each day, and that she missed I all when she had to retire due to her health. She was dan inspiration to many in the way she approached her life, her work, and finally her illness. Her love and devotion to God never wavered. With much love, Your Loving Daughter, Lou Carter Roemish

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ODESSA Wanda Lee Underwood Carter, age 77, passed away peacefully on Friday, February 8, 2008, at her home in Odessa. Her death followed a courageous two-year battle with cancer. She was a loving mother, sister, and friend.

She was born in Mead, OK, on September 22, 1930, to Lewis and Lillie Davis Underwood. She grew up in Madill and Durant, OK. Wanda moved to Odessa in 1956, from Ardmore, OK. She loved to cook, sew, and garden. She worked at Cobbs Department Store in the office and as a church secretary for Parkview Church of Christ where she worshipped. She loved children and enjoyed being a Girl Scout leader. As a Girl Scout leader, she planned cookouts and camping trips to Mitre Peak near Alpine. In 1970, she started working at Odessa Christian School. Wanda loved her work there as an Administrative Assistant. She retired after 36 years in July, 2006, due to failing health.